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HISTORICAL NOTES

GOVERNORS WEST'S TERMS AS GOVERNOR

In the sketch of Governor West published in the October, 1918, issue of this MAGAZINE the second and third terms of Governor West were erroneously given. A full examination of the records of the period, in the office of the Historical Commission in Columbia, by A. S. Salley, Jr., Secretary of the Commission, shows that West was commissioned by the Palatine, April 25, 1674, to succeed Sir John Yeamans,¹ but that Sir John died (between August 3, and 13) and West was chosen governor by the Council (August 13) before the commission reached Charles Town,² and that Landgrave Joseph Morton was commissioned governor by the Palatine to succeed West, May 18, 1682³ (not 1684 as McCrady has it), and assumed the office between August 9, and October 14, 1682. West was still signing warrants as governor on August 9, and Morton signed the next issued on October 14.⁴ On April 29, 1684, the Palatine commissioned Sir Richard Kyrle to succeed Morton.⁵ Sir Richard arrived in South Carolina between July 28, the last date on which Morton signed a warrant as governor,⁶ and August 30, when Sir Richard made his will. "Dame Mary Kyrle widowe and Executrix of S^r. Richard Kyrle Kn^t Landgrave & Governor of this Province of Carolina lately Dec'ed," made her will September 1, 1684. His will was recorded September 11, and hers September 13, and both were probated before Governor West, September 19, 1684.⁷ Immediately upon the death of Governor Kyrle the Council elected Joseph West to succeed him, and on September 6, West signed warrants as governor.⁸ On March 11, 1684/45, the

¹ Public Records of South Carolina (MS.), vol. I, 23.

² This MAGAZINE, vol. XIX, 153.

³ Public Records of South Carolina (MS.), vol. I, 158.

⁴ *Warrants for Lands in South Carolina, 1680-1692*, pp. 65 and 70. It necessarily took time for commissions to travel such a distance.

⁵ Public Records of South Carolina (MS.), vol. I, 279.

⁶ *Warrants for Lands in South Carolina, 1680-1692*, p. 163.

⁷ Court of Ordinary of the Province of South Carolina, 1672-1692 (MS.), 214-215.

⁸ *Warrants for Lands in South Carolina, 1680-1692*, pp. 160 and 162.

Palatine issued a commission to West.⁹ In a letter of instructions to Governor West from the Proprietors, dated March 13, 1684/5, they say: "If Landgrave West to whome this is directed should be dead or departed the province Our Will and pleasure then is that Joseph Moreton Esq^r. one of y^e. Landgraves of Carolina shall be Governor and put the orders herein Contained in Execution."¹⁰

Governor West resigned between June 15, and July 12, 1685, and departed from the province, and the Council elected Landgrave Morton to succeed him, but Morton declined and Council then chose Robert Quarry, a Proprietor's Deputy, to be governor. The last warrant signed by West as governor was dated June 15, and the first signed by Quarry as governor was dated July 12. Quarry was superseded by Morton, probably in accordance with the instructions given in the letter of March 13 to West, between September 1, and October 6, 1685. In a letter from the Proprietors to Governor Morton, dated February 15, 1685/6, they stated that they had been "Informed by Robert Quarry Esq^r. our Secretary That on the First of September last there came a Vessell into Ashley River in Carolina that pretended to have been trading amongst the Spainyards And had afterwards been plundered of all they had by French Privateers even of their very Chests, and Papers, and that afterwards they met with a Fleet of English Privateers y^e. Admirall of which had given him to y^e. value of Fifteen pounds to come to Carolina and try if they might be permitted to come thither & repair And that he the said Robert Quarry being then Governour (And as he pretends soe elected to be by y^e. Grand Councill Landgrave Moreton to whom by virtue of our Fundamentall Constitutions, & Instructions The Government of right Belonged as eldest Landgrave upon y^e. departure of Joseph West Esq^r. our former Governour haveing publickly refused to accept it) Did strictly prohibit y^e. Master or any of y^e. men of y^e. said Vessell to land or sell any goods in Carolina &ct."¹¹ Morton first signed warrants as governor October 6, 1685.¹² On August 31, 1686, the Palatine issued a commission to Landgrave James Colleton as

⁹ Public Records of South Carolina (MS.), II, 10.

¹⁰ Ibid., 30.

¹¹ Public Records of South Carolina (MS.), vol. II, 121. Quarry spelled his name with only one r the Lords Proprietors and many historians to the contrary, notwithstanding.

¹² *Warrants for Lands in South Carolina, 1680-1692*, pp. 179, 180, 181.

governor,¹³ but it was several months thereafter before he arrived to take over the government. The last warrant signed by Morton as governor was dated October 28, 1686, and Colleton assumed the government soon thereafter.

INSCRIPTIONS FROM THE BLAKE BURYING-GROUND AT "THE BLUFF,"
ON WAPPOO

The following inscriptions were copied September 12, 1917, from the Blake family burying ground on the plantation on Wappoo Creek, called "The Bluff" which was formerly owned by Col. George Lucas, and was the place of his daughter Eliza's experiments in cultivating indigo. It was later owned by Edward Blake and his descendants, and lately by the late John N. Voorhees. An account of this plantation is given in this MAGAZINE, vol. xvi, pp. 63 to 65.

Captain Edward Blake (Naval Commissioner during the Revolution) died between August and November, 1795, leaving a will. His children were (1) Mary, who married first, in 1774, Thomas Rose, and second Nov. 1784, Charles Lining; (2) Sarah Blake, who married Rev. Henry Purcell, who had been married before; (3) Ann, who married Feb. 1777, Elisha Sawyer, and (4) Capt. John Blake, who married Nov. 1777 Margaret, daughter of Captain Peter Mercier.

Capt. John Blake (born 1752, died 2d July, 1810) and his wife Margaret Mercier (d. 16 Jan. 1824, aged 70) had issue:

(1) Elizabeth Blake 1782-1845

(2) Martha Ferguson Blake, married William Washington, they are buried in the old Elliott private cemetery on "Live Oak," St. Pauls parish, not far from Rantowle's bridge; in this same Elliott grave-yard, sadly neglected, are buried Col. William Washington, and his wife Jane Riley Elliott, and the only inscription to the stone which covers them both is "My parents Dear Lie Here. J. A." (This MAGAZINE, vol. x, p. 246.)

(3) Margaret Watson [?] Blake, married Rev. Nathaniel Bowen.

(4) Harriet Haig Blake, 1788-1840.

(5) Mary Maham Blake. [Footstone M. M. B.]

(6) Edward Blake.

(7) John Haig Blake 1799-1833.

(8) Jane Savage Blake, 1784-1803. Married Samuel Wilson.

¹³ Public Records of South Carolina (MS.), vol. II, 143.